

CONCEPT VOCABULARY

You will find the following terms and definitions useful as you read and discuss the selections in this book.

dragon a mythical creature usually represented as a large, lizard-like monster with lion's claws and scaly skin; generally breathes fire

dwarf a small, legendary, manlike being who is usually misshapen and ugly and skilled as a craftsman

elf an otherworldly being resembling a human. Elves are small, shy, mischievous creatures considered to have magical powers.

fairy a magical, imaginary being generally depicted with wings

fairy tale a story involving fantastic forces and beings such as goblins, fairies, wizards, and trolls

folktale an anonymous and timeless tale originally circulated through oral retellings

gnome a dwarflike creature who lives underground and guards treasures

goblin an ugly and sometimes mischievous creature; usually given to evil

illusion a false view of reality

magic sorcery; to control nature using supernatural means such as charms and spells

monster an imaginary creature with a bizarre or frightening shape or appearance

reality the sum of all that is actual and true

supernatural that which has powers that go beyond the natural laws of science and nature

three wishes a subgenre of folktales in which the protagonist is given three wishes. The crux of the tale is the manner in which the main character "spends" his or her wishes.

transformation the process of changing in form or appearance

troll a supernatural creature that lives in caves or under bridges. Trolls, who first appeared in Scandinavian folklore, may be giant or dwarf, friendly or mischievous.

wish fulfillment state or condition in which every desire or wish is granted

witch one who is credited with supernatural powers

wizard a wise man; one skilled in magic